Gateway 2022
ST. LOUIS NMRA

Pete Smith's Loon Lake Railway & Navigation Co.

Article and photographs by Dan Munson

Above: **Number 9, a 37-ton, 2-truck Shay, pulls a freight out of the yard in Cascade, the highest point on the layout. The Shay, like all the locomotives on the layout, are P-B-L models. The structures on the left and the right are Bar Mills kits. The tavern was assembled by Richard Rands. The center structure was custom-cut in S scale for Pete by American Model Builders.**

Visiting layouts is always fun, whether for the first time or going back for a second, third, or fourth look. It's an opportunity to see how other people use their space to build their model railroad and the different techniques they use to create the effect they seek. It's always a great chance to learn something new and/or get some motivation to work on your own model railroad. Enjoy getting lost in a scene, spending time absorbing ideas and finding all the details the modeler has created. Pete Smith's Sn3 Loon Lake Railway & Navigation Company is one such layout—you want to linger and soak it all in.

Pete has built several layouts over the years, but they were all short-lived because he was constantly on the move during his 30-year Air Force career. Despite this nomadic lifestyle, he did manage to earn his Master Model Railroader® (No. 120) as one of the program's early participants.